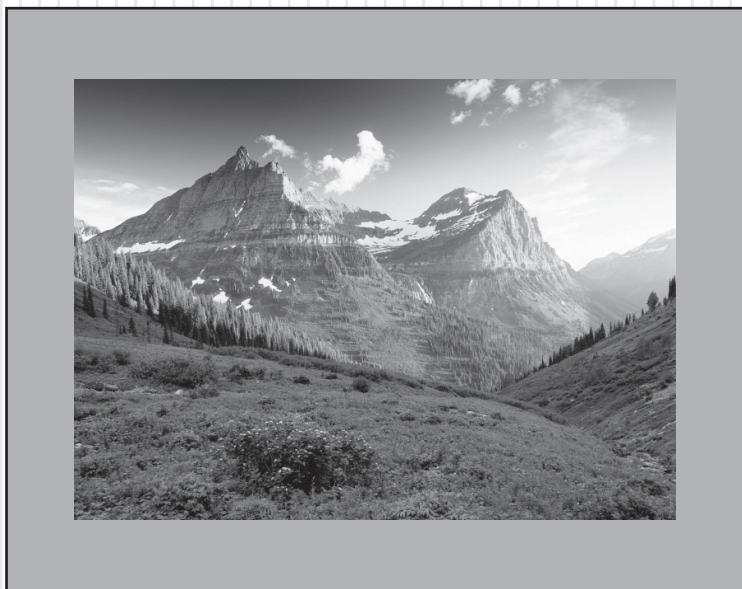


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 5

2007



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Reading Session 1

You very well may be a human pack rat! Read this passage about the wood rat (pack rat) and then answer the question that follows.

Are You a Pack Rat?

by Joan Unterberg

DO YOU COLLECT all kinds of stuff? Do you shove it under your bed? In your dresser drawers? In your closet? Does your family call you a pack rat because you won't throw anything away?

Some of us are called pack rats because we are collectors and savers. Real pack rats are curious rodents with big ears and bulging, black eyes.

- 2** Adults are about one foot to one and a half feet long, including a three- to nine-inch tail. Pack rats are actually wood rats, but because they are such collectors, they're commonly called pack rats.

A real pack rat never stops collecting! It's always shopping for anything that looks interesting to add to the pile of clutter it stores in its nest. The rat will pick up nearly anything that it can carry in its mouth—nails, needles, pins, pens, clippers, zippers, coins, cans, glass, brass, bones, and stones. The contents of an average desert pack rat nest can easily fill an oversized trash bag.

One night before going to sleep, a camper laid his gold wrist watch on a small box next to his sleeping bag. In the morning, he reached for his watch. There, on the very spot where he'd laid his watch the night before, sat a shiny stone. During the night, a pack rat must have been snooping around the campsite. Because pack rats love anything bright and shiny, the rat probably spotted the shiny watch and traded it for the stone it had been carrying. Another camper found an old sock in place of his false teeth when he woke in the morning!

- 5** These pack rats are busy at night because they are nocturnal. Since the fiery sun can send temperatures soaring above 130°F in Arizona's Sonoran Desert, they are awake at night and sleep during the day. They build their nests near cacti to

protect them from the fierce heat while they sleep. The nests may look messy, but the hodgepodge of dead twigs allows the air to circulate, while the green cacti give off moisture to cool the nests.

After the sun goes down and the temperature drops, the busy pack rat's day begins. Just as it never stops collecting this and that, a pack rat never stops building its nest. It builds and builds and builds, often until its nest stretches to six feet across! The bigger the nest, the harder it is for a predator, such as a skunk or coyote, to find its builder. Sometimes the rat will build its nest in the middle of a prickly pear cactus patch or underneath a cactus to keep predators away.

Night after night, the pack rat gathers hundreds of spiny joints from jumping cholla cacti and piles them up at the entrances of its nest. Each cactus joint holds a pincushion of nasty spines. Sometimes these mounds of cactus spines are stacked as high as two feet. They act as a barbed-wire fence and protect the rodent from most predators. The pack rat usually has no problem dodging the spines, but if enemies try, they're in big trouble: those spines are so sharp that they could puncture a bicycle tire!

- 8** Some creatures aren't a bit afraid of the rat's barbed fortress, though. Badgers will rip into the nest. Gila monsters will dig and bull their way through the spines. And rattlesnakes will slither underneath, hoping to find a tasty snack of baby pack rats. This is why the nest has more than one entrance—in case the pack rat needs to make a quick getaway.

Inside the nest, the rat builds rooms and passageways, cushioning them with grasses, feathers, shredded bark, or any smooth materials it

can find. It stores its food and treasures in separate rooms. And the rodent doesn't have to go far for food—it's right there! Pack rats get their food and water from cactus pads, stems, seeds, and fruit.

Usually, only one pack rat lives in the nest, but generations of pack rats often build on to the same nest. Some will also build new nests, and others take over vacant ones. When a pack rat dies, its nest doesn't stay empty long—there's always another

pack rat ready to move in and make itself at home. . . .

Whether they are busy gathering food and cactus joints or collecting treasures, pack rats must be ready to run back to the safety of their nests at a moment's notice. They always have to be on the lookout for coyotes, foxes, bobcats, badgers, and snakes that might be searching for a snack.

Aren't you glad *you're* not a real pack rat?

22. Explain why some people are called “pack rats.” Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of why some people are also called “pack rats.” Response includes relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of why some people are also called “pack rats.” Response lacks some relevant information from the passage, or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why some people are also called “pack rats.” Response uses limited information from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal. OR Response only provides a personal opinion with not text support.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

For 4 points, response makes specific comparisons between pack rats and people who are called pack rats. Response indicates an understanding of how descriptive terms and language are used idiomatically to illustrate and summarize behavioral attributes or personality.

- Some people are called pack rats because they collect almost everything they find, just like real pack rats do.
- Pack rats build their nests with many rooms where they store all of their little treasures. When people are pack rats, they often have lots of different things stored in many different places, like drawers, closets, etc.
- Human pack rats collect all kinds of stuff, have it everywhere, and hardly ever throw anything away. Real pack rats do the same thing.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

People are called pack rats for many reasons. One reason is because real pack rats keep a lot of junk and some people don't get rid of stuff. They also get called pack rats because real pack rats like all kinds of stuff and some people to them even if it is garbage keep it. Also pack rats have a purpose for collecting things because they want to have a bigger house and fake pack rats think that every thing has a purpose, they say hey don't throw that away because I did something special with that. ~~Finally~~ ^{Usually} real pack rats go hunting for things to use for their collection and people pack rats go basically hunting for thing not to throw away because they did something good with it. I think people are called pack rats for many reasons. There are a lot of more reasons but here are some that I chose.

Some people are called "pack rats". This is an expression that means they collect anything or they never throw anything away. The "pack rat" part comes from the wood rat (known as the pack rat) because it will collect anything. pack rats will use this stuff to build its nest. Humans will have this stuff everywhere just like the pack rat in the attic, basement anywhere. So if you never throw anything away or are really collectors of stuff, some day someone might call you a "pack rat." The end.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

First, some people are called "pack rats" because they collect a lot of things and so do pack rats. Next some people are called "pack rats" because they don't throw anything away and pack rats don't get rid of anything either. Third, some people are called "pack rats" because they put their things everywhere and pack rats put things everywhere also. Finally some people are called "pack rats" because they never stop collecting things and neither do pack rats. In conclusion, this is why some people are called "pack rats".

Some people are called pack rats because they get things and they don't take care of it. They put it in their closet, under their bed, in their dresser drawers. If they see something cool or interesting they want it. If they get it they put it with other junk that they don't need. This is why some people are called pack rats. They are just like the animals. They collect some things that they don't need.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Some people are called pack rats because they collect a LOT of junk and will never just sell it, but instead they go to a store and buy more! People get this name from rats that collect ANYTHING to put in their nests. These rats are really called pack rats.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

I think some people are called pack rats because they like to collect almost anything they can get or else get a hold of and like to keep it and won't throw it away or won't give it up or back.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

People are called pack rats because they collect junk like nails, feathers and old stuff like that.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

Some people are called pack rats because they keep alot of stuff.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

A pack of rat if you get chase by them you need a safe spot to hide and you need your help or get a body guard or you can run and hide from the hundreds of rats.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

some times it can be a gang name. or
it can mean rats in a pack.

Reading Session 3

Eddie Ball wants Annie to enter the Finkle Foods Contest for a chance to win a million dollars. But, there is a wrinkle. Read this chapter from the book The Million Dollar Shot and then answer the question that follows.

The Contest

by Dan Gutman

After school one day in October, Mom came home and immediately headed for the sink to wash the marshmallow off her hands. She tossed a copy of *Finkle Facts* on the table. That's the newsletter that all Finkle employees have to read. I couldn't help but notice the big headline:

FINKLE TO GIVE AWAY A MILLION DOLLARS!

The article said that Finkle Foods was sponsoring a big contest. The company had arranged with the National Basketball Association to have one lucky kid take a foul shot during halftime of Game 1 of the NBA Finals in June. If the kid made the shot, Finkle Foods would give the kid one million dollars.

All you had to do to enter the contest was send in ten Finkle box tops and an original poem about Finkles. The kid with the best poem would be chosen to shoot the million dollar shot.

"A million bucks!" I whistled.

"I don't know how George Finkle has a million dollars to give away," Mom grumbled. "Rumors are flying around the factory that sales are down and Finkle's going to fire half the workers. He should take the million dollars and use it to make a food people can eat without going into sugar shock."

Mom's a little bitter about Finkle, in case you haven't noticed. She's a pretty

good cook, and a couple of years ago she invented a snack food of her own. It was a fat-free, home baked cracker with real fruit and yogurt inside. It was pretty tasty—and even healthy for you. We named it an Air Crunchy.

Mom took the Air Crunchy idea to her boss, who showed it to Mr. Finkle. Mom still has the letter she got from Mr. Finkle.

Dear Mrs. Rebecca Ball:

Thank you for your recent snack food submission. Unfortunately, Finkle has chosen to pass on the idea of Air Crunchies. Our research shows that Americans *say* they want healthy snacks, but they won't *eat* healthy snacks. They want marshmallow, chocolate, peanuts, and caramel. In other words, Americans want Finkles.

Thank you again for thinking of Finkle Foods. And remember, don't be a fink—have a Finkle.

Sincerely,
George Finkle

... I was sitting in front of the trailer fooling with the calculator when Annie strolled over carrying one of her poetry books.

"How about a game of HORSE?" she suggested.

"Do you realize," I said, poking the keys on the calculator, "that if you put a million dollars in the bank today and earned 8 percent interest on it, a year from now you'd have earned \$80,000 for doing *nothing*?"

11 “The trick is getting that first million,” Annie said.

She hadn’t read the newsletter. I told her about the Million Dollar Shot Contest Finkle Foods was sponsoring.

“Come on,” she scoffed. “Nobody really wins those things.”

“Sure they do,” I replied. “They *have* to give away the prize or it’s against the law.”

“Believe me, George Finkle will find a way to weasel out of paying the money. No way he’s going to pay out a million bucks for sinking a crummy foul shot.” Annie’s dad had told her all about George Finkle, too.

“Well, if I sink that shot,” I said confidently, “he would *have* to pay.”

“They’ll probably get a million entries,” Annie said.

“So I’ve got as good a chance as anybody.”

“Yeah, like *none*.”

“*You* like poetry,” I said. “Why don’t *you* enter the contest?”

“Me? Write a poem to promote George Finkle’s poison-making machine?” Annie laughed. “I’d rather poke hot needles in my eyes.”

22 Annie’s a strict vegetarian. I don’t think there’s any meat in a Finkle, but she won’t eat them anyway because of all the chemicals and preservatives.

“Did you ever read the ingredients on the side of a Finkle box?” she asked me. “It sounds like the stuff they use to make chemical weapons.”

“Come on!” I tried one more time. “Enter the contest. It’ll be *fun*!”

“Not even if they paid me a million dollars.”

“They just might!”

So I was on my own. Annie read her book as I struggled to come up with something nice to say about Finkles. It was hard! This was the best I could do:

**Finkles ain’t red,
Finkles ain’t blue,
But Finkles taste great,
And they’re good for you, too!**

“That’s terrible,” Annie commented when I read it out loud. I agreed. I was about to start another poem when Annie noticed some tiny letters at the bottom of the newsletter:

*Contest is void where prohibited.
Employees, their families and associates of
Finkle Foods are ineligible.*

Shoot! Our parents worked for Finkle Foods, so we couldn’t enter the contest. Disgusted, I ripped up the paper and tossed it in the trash. We went off and played a game of HORSE.

67. Write an advertisement for the Finkle Foods Million Dollar Shot Contest. Include details from the passage in your advertisement.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides an advertisement for Finkle Foods Million Dollar Shot Contest. Response is thorough and supported with specific information from the passage.
3	Response provides an advertisement for Finkle Foods Million Dollar Shot Contest. Response may not use specific information from the passage.
2	Response provides a partial advertisement with limited or no specific information from the passage. Response may also be based on inaccurate or misinterpreted information.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Advertisements should include the following information:

- Finkle Foods is sponsoring a big contest arranged with the National Basketball Association.
- One lucky kid will take a shot during halftime of Game 1 of the NBA Finals in June.
- If the kid makes the shot, the kid gets one million dollars from Finkle Foods.
- To enter the contest, send in ten Finkle box tops and an original poem about Finkles.
- The kid with the best poem gets to shoot the million dollar shot.
- Contest is void where prohibited.
- Employees, their families, and associates of Finkle Foods are ineligible.

Finkle to give away a Million Dollars!

Finkle foods is sponsoring a contest and have made arrangements with the National Basketball Association (NBA) to have one lucky kid shoot a foul shot in the NBA finals in June. If the kid makes it finkle foods will give that kid a million dollars!

Requirements:
10 Finkle Food box tops
1 original poem about Finkle Foods

The kid with the best poem shoots the ball.

contest is void where prohibited. Employees, their families and associates of Finkle Foods are ineligible.

Million Dollar Shot - Finkle Foods will be sponsoring a huge contest. One kid will be able to take a foul shot for the National Basketball Association during halftime of the first game of the NBA Finals this summer in June. What you have to do to enter is send in 10 Finkle box tops and write a poem about the Finkles. The poem they think is best will get to take the foul shot and maybe win 1 million dollars! Employees or their families or their associates of Finkle Foods can't win the contest.

Finkle Million Dollar Shot!

This contest will be at the NBA finals in June. The kid will have to shoot a foul shot during halftime of game 1. The kid who makes the shot will receive a million dollars from Finkle Foods.

Only thing you'll have to do kids is, send in ten Finkle Foods' box tops and a poem about the Finkle Food Company. The best poem that is chosen, that kid will get to shoot the million dollar shot at the finals!

~~Finkle~~ To Give Away A Million Dollars! The company has arranged with the National Basketball Association to have one lucky kid take a foul shot during halftime of Game 1 of the NBA Finals in June. All you have to do to enter the contest was send in ten Finkle box tops and an original poem about Finkles. The kid with the best poem would be chosen to shoot the million dollar shot. Remember you could be the lucky kid!

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Dear, people of the world, **MILLION**
Dollar shot. At the NBA Finals one lucky
kid will get to shoot a free throw. If
they make it they will get \$1,000,000.
All you have to do is write as
a original poem.
sincerely,
Mr. Finkle

Score Point 2

Sample 2

You should enter the Finkle
Foods Million Dollar shot contest.
All you have to do is write a poem
and then you shoot if you make.
if you will win the one million
dollars.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

You could win a million dollars
if you make the shot.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

If you win the winning shot you
get a million dollars.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

It sounds like another slim chance thing. They probably have the basket as high as it can go. It will be alot just to get ten box tops, and expensive too. Even if you got to shoot, you'd probably miss. You might not even be chosen. That is why the contest is a waste of time.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

45. Hay kids do you want some thing
to eat. if you do come on down to big
boy. we will feed you for only
505295.

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